

**Board of Trustees
Suffolk County Department of Parks
Recreation and Conservation**

**Minutes of July 20, 2006
at Cupsogue Beach County Park, Westhampton**

BOARD MEMBERS

Ray Corwin Chairman, Member at Large

PRESENT:

Richard F. White, Trustee, Town of East Hampton
Jr.

John Fritz Trustee, Town of Babylon

Miles Borden Trustee, Town of Smithtown

Aurelio Colina Vice Chairman, Town of Southampton

Terrence Pearsall Member of the Board

Jeanine Dillon Member of the Board

Gary Olsen Trustee, Town of Brookhaven

Alexander McKay Trustee, Town of Huntington

ABSENT:

Gregory Dawson Trustee, Town of Islip

Gil Cardillo Trustee, Town of Riverhead

Jennifer Kohn Assistant County Attorney

Vacant Trustee, Town of Southold

Vacant Trustee, Town of Shelter Island

PARKS DEPARTMENT:

Ronald F. Foley Commissioner

Tracey Bellone Deputy Commissioner

Colleen Hofmeister Contracts Manager

William B. Sickles Senior Parks Superintendent

Nick Gibbons Senior Environmental Analyst

Tom Hroncich Marketing Specialist

Stacey A. Kowalski Secretary to the Commissioner

GUESTS:

Pat Zielenski Director, Division of Real Estate

Lauretta Fischer Principal Environmental Analyst, Planning
Department

Janet Longo Assistant Director of Planning

Bill Johnson Suffolk Committee for Camping

Chairman Corwin opened the meeting. Trustee Fritz recognized Park Supervisor Ryan Sommerville for his outstanding job at Cupsogue Beach and at our three county marinas.

PUBLIC PORTION:

Chairman Corwin noted that there are no members of the public present so the meeting moved on.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF JUNE 15, 2006:

There were no corrections to the June 15th Minutes. The motion to accept was made by Trustee Fritz, seconded by Trustee White, none opposed. The Minutes were unanimously approved by a vote of 9-0-0.

PLANNING AND REAL ESTATE:

Lauretta Fischer presented one acquisition:

Montauk Downs State Park Addition - The property is adjacent and north of Montauk Downs State Park. There are a total of 13 lots owned by 5 individuals totaling 7.18 acres (red outline on maps that were distributed). This is a sensitive habitat area with low-lying wetlands. The Town of East Hampton owns the property outlined in purple and this acquisition would connect the Town and State properties. Trustee White inquired as to what the property outlined in green was. Ms. Fischer stated that this was the final property to be acquired by the County, but we were not as far in the process on that one. Most of the properties are owned by the Capurso family. Five separate owners more or less are in the family and the parcels were interspersed ownership or "checkerboarded" so we would like to move ahead with all but the last one at this time. Trustee White noted that this area besides being environmentally sensitive had been an Indian Burial ground and Ms. Fischer responded yes, that it is very archeologically sensitive. The property is being acquired under the Multifaceted Land Preservation Partnership—Open Space Preservation. It will be a partnership with the Town of East Hampton. **Trustee McKay made the motion to approve the acquisition, seconded by Trustee Colina. Motion was approved unanimously.**

Mohlenhoff Property - Janet Longo announced that the County had closed on the Mohlenhoff property in Huntington on July 19, 2006.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT:

Storm Damage - The Commissioner reported that the severe thunderstorm yesterday caused damage at several parks. As a result of the storm, two golf courses, West Sayville and Timber Point were closed on Wednesday due to downed trees and power lines. LIPA worked to restore the power. The courses reopened today. Cathedral Pines suffered a lightning hit damaging electronics with some impact, but not huge. At the Long Island Maritime Museum, their tent was destroyed. At Southaven, a tree fell on the Lodge (Park Police HQ) resulting in the need for temporary roof repairs. At Indian Island, a tree hit a camping trailer, but thankfully nobody was hurt. We are continuing to clean up the damage; it appears the south shore was hit the hardest.

Trap and Skeet Range - The Trap and Skeet Range opened as scheduled on July 15th. It was a relatively good day for the shooters and we did have some media coverage. People in the area expressed concerns over the opening. Yesterday at the Pine Barrens Commission meeting, the Commission decided not to take action because there is no application before them for jurisdiction. The Trap and Skeet facility will be open five days a week from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00

p.m. They will be closed on Mondays and Tuesdays except if a holiday falls on a Monday and they are permitted to have corporate events on Tuesdays with approval from the Commissioner's office.

Long Island Maritime Museum - Thanks to DPW, the entrance to the Long Island Maritime Museum Boat Basin was dredged in time for their antique boat show. We still have to rebuild the bulkhead and reconstruct the boardwalk on top of it, which will be done in combination with contractors and our workers, hopefully in time for the Seafood Festival in late August.

Cupsogue Beach County Park - There are a lot of plans for Cupsogue. We are looking at redesigning the entrance in cooperation with DPW and the Westhampton Dunes Village. The village will work with DPW to repave the entry road and make changes to the entry way making it big enough to turn around tractor trailers and pickup-truck campers. There will be a parallel auxiliary road to try to deal with the traffic backup into the village. We are considering including campsites both to the outer beach and the regular area in the reservation system, again with the idea of alleviating congestion. We have received the DEC permit for a handicap ramp from the boardwalk down to the beach. The ramp will be constructed after the season. We have drawings for the bird observation/walk, which will be contracted out. We will still need the DEC permit for this.

Colleen Hofmeister reported that we completed an RFP last year for the concessionaire. It was awarded to the prior concessionaire, Fred Marsillio of the Beach Hut. He was awarded three 5-year options. We receive a flat fee of \$15,000 per year and 10% of gross over \$100,000. He has a capital requirement to spend \$200,000 in the first five years. The department is currently working with Fred to discuss his capital expenditure. Colleen discussed the revenue history of the beach hut for the last few years.

Chairman Corwin asked if the high revenue was the result of increased attendance. Bill Sickles replied that this concessionaire offers an expanded menu, has brought in bands and theme nights and has done a far better job than his predecessor.

Trustee Fritz commented that the menu is extensive and very good and the bands are great.

Trustee Colina said that Fred also runs Meschutt Beach and he does a great job.

Ms. Hofmeister informed the Trustees that Fred Marsillio has contracts for Cupsogue, Meschutt, and Smith Point County Park.

Southaven Stables - Ms. Hofmeister said that we have had two failed RFP's for Southaven so we have decided to go with a different approach and go out for an RFEI (Request for Expression of Interest). This time we have a commitment of capital funds of \$475,000 from the County Executive and we have a report from an outside consultant which says that the building needs \$1.1 million in work. We are going out for an RFEI to find out what can be done there and what is needed. We will advertise in Newsday, in a local horse publication, and on equestrian-related websites.

Suffolk County Parks Foundation - The Commissioner reported that the foundation now exists thanks to pro bono work done by former Trustee Jay Miller. Mr. Miller submitted paperwork to establish the foundation. We would like Mr. Miller to serve as Chairman of the foundation. On the paperwork, we listed Chairman Corwin and Trustee Fritz as temporary directors, but that was for filing purposes. This foundation will be a vehicle to get support and money for park events and programs. When this is set up and organized, it will be an avenue to receive corporate sponsorships and funds from people who want to support the parks system. We are working with

Civil Service to establish a title to have Tom Hroncich serve as the Executive Director; he will remain a county employee on loan to the foundation to help manage the day-to-day activities. Organizations without substance and a person spending time on them tend to flounder, so the county is devoting staff to this endeavor. An organizational meeting will be scheduled soon. Trustee Corwin indicated that the Foundation is not limited in membership and other Trustees may participate if they wish to do so.

Secretary Transfer - The Commissioner reported that his secretary/the secretary to the Board of Trustees, Stacey Kowalski, is being transferred to the County Executive's office. He thanked her for her work. The Trustees expressed their appreciation for her efforts and wished her well.

TWA Flt. 800 10th Anniversary Memorial - The Commissioner said that the 10th Anniversary Memorial, which was held on Monday, was very well done. It was a large event with a lot of media outlets in attendance. The event was supported by the Parks Department in conjunction with the families of the tragedy under the leadership of John Seaman. As usual, the parks department did an outstanding job. Governor Pataki, a Representative from the French Consulate, Police Commissioner Dormer, Congressman Bishop, several Legislators and County Executive Steve Levy were in attendance. The event went well.

Chairman Corwin commented that he was at the event and that he tries to go every year to represent the Park Trustees. He said that this event was the largest since it was the 10th Anniversary. Chairman Corwin passed around photographs from the event. He complimented the Commissioner, Bill Sickles, the Park Police, and Parks Staff for their fine work. He further stated that the event was well run and it went off wonderfully right up to the last minute and went on to congratulate Parks. He also noted he felt that Parks offers a calming presence to the memorial, and he was very impressed with their handling of the event. In addition, he encouraged the other Trustees to attend future events to show the Trustee's presence.

National Award - The Commissioner informed the Trustees that Bill Sickles will be going to Chicago next month to receive his National Award.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:

Intergovernmental Relations Seminar - Chairman Corwin reported that he is in receipt of an email from Commissioner Foley (which he passed out to the Trustees) regarding an Intergovernmental Relations Seminar on the reappointment process for governing bodies. The seminar is mandatory for either the Chairman or Vice Chairman. Chairman Corwin is attending and asked Vice Chairman Colina if he would like to attend as well. Speaking of appointments and reappointments, Chairman Corwin reminded the Trustees that they should keep an eye on the date that their term expires because it seems to come around quite quickly.

Suffolk Committee for Camping - Chairman Corwin recognized Bill Johnson from Suffolk Committee for Camping who was in attendance and invited him to say a few words. Mr. Johnson said he has received a lot of feedback from his members about Smith Point. He said that he agrees with his members that Smith Point has improved tremendously. He commented on the cleanliness of the bathrooms, the service, the garbage removal, the friendliness of the staff – everything has been amazing. He wanted to say that it has improved and they appreciate our work.

OLD/NEW BUSINESS:

Trustee Fritz thanked Parks and the Suffolk County Legislature for the opening of the Trap & Skeet facility. Although there was local opposition, it was a well-deserved event.

Long Island Beach Buggy Association Jamboree - Trustee Fritz extended an invitation on behalf of Chuck Collins of the Long Island Beach Buggy Association to attend their jamboree at Smith Point on August 5th. He asked if the department could spray the area for mosquitoes before the jamboree. It will be held in the DARE area, and the department will ensure it is sprayed.

Funds for Fish Hatchery - Trustee Fritz said that several years ago, Legislator Towle got \$15,000 to update the fish hatchery at Southaven County Park; however it was never done because more money was needed. He believes the \$15,000 is still available and they think there might be something else that the money could be used on that would be beneficial to parks. Commissioner Foley said he would have to look into it because the bonding resolution might have been restrictive in language as to the funding use. He will look into it and see what the situation is.

Smith Point Fishing Pier - Trustee Fritz asked for an update on the fishing pier at Smith Point. Commissioner Foley said the last he heard we are waiting for a permit from the Corp. of Engineers and that they said they will begin their 30-day public review process shortly and asked for some tweaking of the plans to be made more understandable to the public.

Route 105 Access - Trustee Fritz asked for an update on the access at Route 105. Commissioner Foley said that it was on the list but he hasn't talked to DPW yet.

Shagwong Point - Trustee Fritz asked for an update on Shagwong camping. Commissioner Foley said we have a lot of projects and that we will get to this eventually. An environmental review is needed. There are many environmental issues ahead of it.

Commercial Camping Rentals - Trustee Fritz said that he has heard that some people are upset that commercial camping rental companies are renting campers and bringing them to Shinnecock East. Chuck Collins from LIBBA indicated he had no problems with it. Bill Sickles explained that he has received a call about this, but that it has always been allowed. If people don't own a camper and they want to rent one and use it at our parks, he doesn't see a problem with it. Commissioner Foley said it seemed like a great thing and it allows people to get outdoors and enjoy their parks. He would prefer the vehicles did not have advertisements on them.

Real Estate Acquisitions - Chairman Corwin asked if the Trustees could be advised of real estate acquisitions that did not have to be voted on by the Trustees. Pat Zielenski agreed to provide the Trustees with a listing of closed properties at each meeting.

Thank You - Chairman Corwin thanked Phil, the manager at the Beach Hut, for his assistance at our meeting. He complimented him on the outstanding food.

Handicap Playground at Lake Ronkonkoma County Park - Tom Hroncich informed the Trustees that the handicap playground, which is being constructed at Lake Ronkonkoma County Park, will be opening in August. Chairman Corwin asked Tom to keep them informed of the date for the ribbon cutting so that the Trustees could be represented.

Parks Foundation - Chairman Corwin asked for a copy of the papers that were filed to establish the parks foundation. Tom Hroncich said that he would provide him with that information.

DATE AND LOCATION OF THE NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting of the Parks Board of Trustees will take place on Thursday, August 17, 2006 at Meadow Edge in West Sayville. Please note the time of the meeting will be 10:00 a.m. to avoid conflict with the Legislature's schedule.

Trustee Fritz motioned to adjourn, seconded by Trustee McKay. The motion was approved unanimously.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Dorothy Rosado.